

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2058

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA VIA POUCH

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 0294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: LIBYA TO REQUIRE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE MANUALS IN ARABIC

1. MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS JUST DECREED THAT ALL INSTRUCTION MANUALS, SERVICING MANUALS AND SPARE PARTS CATALOGS PERTAINING TO VEHICLES SOLD IN LIBYA MUST BE AVAILABLE IN ARABIC LANGUAGE. REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL COME INTO FORCE IN 90 DAYS, APPLIES TO FARM MACHINERY AND EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY IN ADDITION TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

2. WHILE SALE OF AMERICAN PASSENGER CARS AND TRUCKS IN LIBYA IS LIMITED, THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL MARKET FOR AMERICAN FARM AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY, E.G., JOHN DEERE, CATERPILLAR, ETC. PROBABLY LOCAL DEALERS WILL TRY TO MEET REQUIREMENT BY ISSUING TARGELY INADEQUATE TRANSLATIONS PREPARED HERE.

3. GOVT ACTION GOES TO HEART OF MAJOR PRACTICAL PROBLEM HANDICAPPING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS HERE. IN OUR OPINION IT IS ALSO NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN EXPORTERS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR HOLD ON LIBYAN MARKET BY COMPLYING WITH NEW REQUIREMENT PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY. PROPERLY PREPARED MATERIALS WOULD BENEFIT OUR SELLERS AS WELL AS ARAB BUYERS HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN ARAB

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WORLD. SUGGEST ABOVE BE PASSED

TO INTERESTED AMERICAN COMPANIES.
STEIN

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